

REMARKS

STATUS OF CLAIMS:

Claims 1-11 are pending in the application. Claim 11 is added via the foregoing amendments.

DRAWINGS:

The Examiner objects to the drawings under 37 C.F.R. § 1.83(a) because he requests that they further show a test pattern and a spacing between the dots. Applicant adds new Figure 16 that represents an exemplary embodiment of the dot spacing as described in the original specification.

35 U.S.C. § 112:

Claims 1-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite.

First, the Examiner notes that claims 1 and 7-10 use the language “capable of printing a correction pattern.” The Examiner contends that this language does not recite the existence of a pattern and does not provide proper antecedent basis for subsequent claim language that refers to the pattern. To address the rejection, Applicant amends claims 1, 7, 8 and 10 to recite “prints,” in place of --is capable of printing--.

The Examiner also contends that proper antecedent basis is not provided for features regarding the dots. To address this issue, Applicant amends claims 1, 7, 8 and 10 to recite a correction pattern “including dots.”

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AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

Figure 16 is added. This Figure represents descriptions contained in the original specification and does not add new matter.

Attachment: New Sheet (Figure 16).

Lastly, the Examiner contends that the word “dots” in claims 4, 5 and 8 lacks antecedent basis because it is not clear if the recited “dots” represent all dots of the correction pattern or dots of the forward pass or dots of the return pass. In regard to claims 4 and 5, Applicant submits that the recitation of “the dots” refers to all the dots forming the correction pattern (including those made during the forward pass and return pass). To further define this feature in claim 5, Applicant amends claim 5 to recite “forming said correction pattern.”

Applicant also amends claim 8 to further define the dots. One skilled in the art would understand whether the claimed dots are those made during the forward pass, the return pass, or whether the dots are those that make up the whole correction pattern in general.

The rejection is therefore requested to be withdrawn.

35 U.S.C. §102:

Claims 1-4, 7, 9 and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Fujimori (JP 2001-10088 [hereinafter “JP ‘088”]). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection in view of the following remarks.

The Examiner has provided a machine translation of Fujimori. However, the Examiner notes that the translation is difficult to comprehend and, thus, he relies on U.S. publication No. 2001/0030671 (hereafter “671”) for clarification of JP ‘088. The cited publication is an equivalent of JP ‘088.

An exemplary feature of claim 1 is that a spacing between dots of a certain size is different from a spacing between dots of a different size. Independent claims 7, 8, 9 and 10 also have features regarding the spacing. An exemplary difference between the features disclosed in

the present specification and '671 is the way in which a sub-pattern is chosen. For example, '671 discloses that a pattern having a uniform checkered pattern (i.e., pattern 4 in Figure 15) is chosen, as discussed in paragraph 0122 of '671. On the other hand, an exemplary embodiment of the present specification selects two sub-patterns that have peak values in darkness. (See page 26, lines 18-20 of the present specification.) The two sub-patterns may be chosen by a sensor or by a user (see first paragraph, on page 28, of the present specification.)

Applicant amends the claims to recite that the correction pattern has "two separate areas that are selected for the correction." Both '671 and JP '008 fail to disclose each feature recited in the claims. Claims 1, 7, 8, 9 and 10 are therefore not anticipated by Fujimori, such that the rejection thereof under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) to be withdrawn. The rejection of claims 2-4 should likewise be withdrawn at least by virtue of these claims respectively depending from claim 1.

35 U.S.C. §103:

Claim 6 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over JP '088 in view of Nishigori (JP 10-329381). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection in view of the following remarks.

Nishigori is relied on for allegedly disclosing a density detector member for detecting test patterns. The Examiner cites to Fig. 4, the Abstract and Section 009 of the translation provided by the Applicant. Without conceding to whether one would have been motivated to combine Nishigori with Fujimori, Applicant submits that claim 6 is patentable over the applied references at least by virtue of its dependency on claim 1. This is because Nishigori combined with

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Fujimori fails to teach or suggest each feature recited in claim 1. Applicant therefore requests withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) at least because claim 6 depends on claim 1.

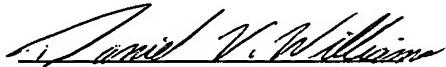
NEW CLAIM:

New claim 11 is added to obtain more varied protection for the invention. Claim 11 is deemed patentable over the applied art and provides benefits not disclosed by such art. For example, by keeping "the spacing in the main-scanning direction between dots forming a correction pattern...the same regardless of the dot size," it is possible to inhibit "the occurrence of bleeding" (see, for example, page 24, lines 22-25 of the specification.)

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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